

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the Office communication mailed February 24, 2004 (Paper No. 12), which alleges that the previously filed response was non-responsive and provided one month in which to respond. Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the above amendments and following remarks are courteously requested.

Claims 1-12, 25-27, 30-32, and 34-36 remain pending in the application, with Claims 1, 25, and 36 being the independent claims. No new matter is believed to have been added.

I. Drawings and Specification

The drawings were objected to because the identifying indicia on FIGS. 4, 6, and 9 that corresponded to the section views depicted in FIGS. 5, 8, and 10 were incorrect. In response, Applicants have submitted herewith four sheets of replacement drawings which provide the appropriate section view identifying indicia thereon for FIGS. 5, 8, and 10. Moreover, the specification has been amended consistent with the drawing changes.

The above-noted communication also alleges that amended FIG. 2, which was filed with Applicants' previous response on January 8, 2004, changed various features in an incorrect manner. However, Applicants respectfully traverse this allegation, in that amended FIG. 2 is an exact replica of originally-filed FIG. 2, with the exception of the addition of the section view and identifying indicia for FIG. 3 that is now present. It is submitted that amended FIG. 2 is indeed the appropriate view based on the section view and identifying indicia of amended FIG. 1. As such, no new matter whatsoever has been added.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the drawing objections is requested.

Conclusion

Based on the above, and in view of the previously filed response, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Appl. No. 10/014,135

Amdt. Dated March 17, 2004

Reply to Office Action of February 24, 2004

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

If for some reason Applicants have not paid a sufficient fee for this response, please consider this as authorization to charge Ingrassia, Fisher & Lorenz, Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 17, 2004

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